

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct grammatical errors, claims 2, 6, 10 and 15 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 14 and 16 have been amended. Examination of the amended application respectfully are requested.

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-13, and 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Rather than rewriting claim 2 in the manner suggested by the Examiner, claim 2 is canceled herein and its limitations incorporated into independent claim 1, accomplishing the same end. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claim 1, as amended, is now in condition for allowance. Claims 6, 10 and 15 are canceled and their respective limitations incorporated into independent claims 5, 9 and 14, respectively, and are also therefore, as amended, in condition for allowance.

Claims 3 and 4 each depends from claim 1, and are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that the Examiner considered original claim 2 allowable.

Claims 7 and 8 each depend from claim 5; claims 11-13 each depend from claim 9, claims 16-18 each depend from claim 14; and are therefore in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that the Examiner considered respective

AMENDMENT

(10/699,740)

original claims 6, 10, and 15 allowable. Note that amendments to claims 11 and 16 relate to matters of form only and are unrelated to satisfaction of any requirements of 35 USC.

Based on the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11-14, 16-18, earnestly is solicited. Should the Examiner feel that a further conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

February 22, 2005
Date

SMR:pjl



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